

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday November 20, 1976

CI NIDC 76-272C



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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday November 20, 1976.

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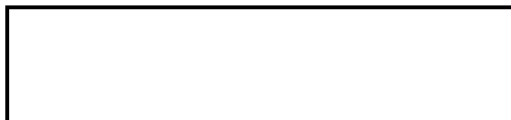
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EAST GERMANY: Watching Intellectuals

[] East German party officials are maintaining a careful watch on students and intellectuals following the regime's exile of Wolf Biermann, a leading critic of the regime.

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[] The East German authorities have not yet reacted to a public petition by several of the country's leading writers and artists condemning Biermann's involuntary expatriation. Among the signers was Christa Wolf, who, until her advocacy of Biermann's cause, was one of the most loyal members of East Germany's literary establishment.

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[] Biermann has been a minor hero to leftist youth in both East and West Germany for some time, and he has been banned from making public appearances in East Germany since 1964. The leadership charged Biermann with making offensive remarks about East Germany while on a tour of West Germany last week. His reported recent appearance at a church-sponsored youth gathering in Prenzlau--in defiance of the authorities--was probably the catalyst, however, for the decision to prevent him from returning to East Germany.

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[] Biermann's exile comes against a backdrop of mounting tension in church-state relations, as well as general unease in East Germany over the economic situation and suspicion that the regime may tighten travel restrictions on East German citizens. The move will further alienate that segment of society--youth--with which the regime is encountering the most difficulties.

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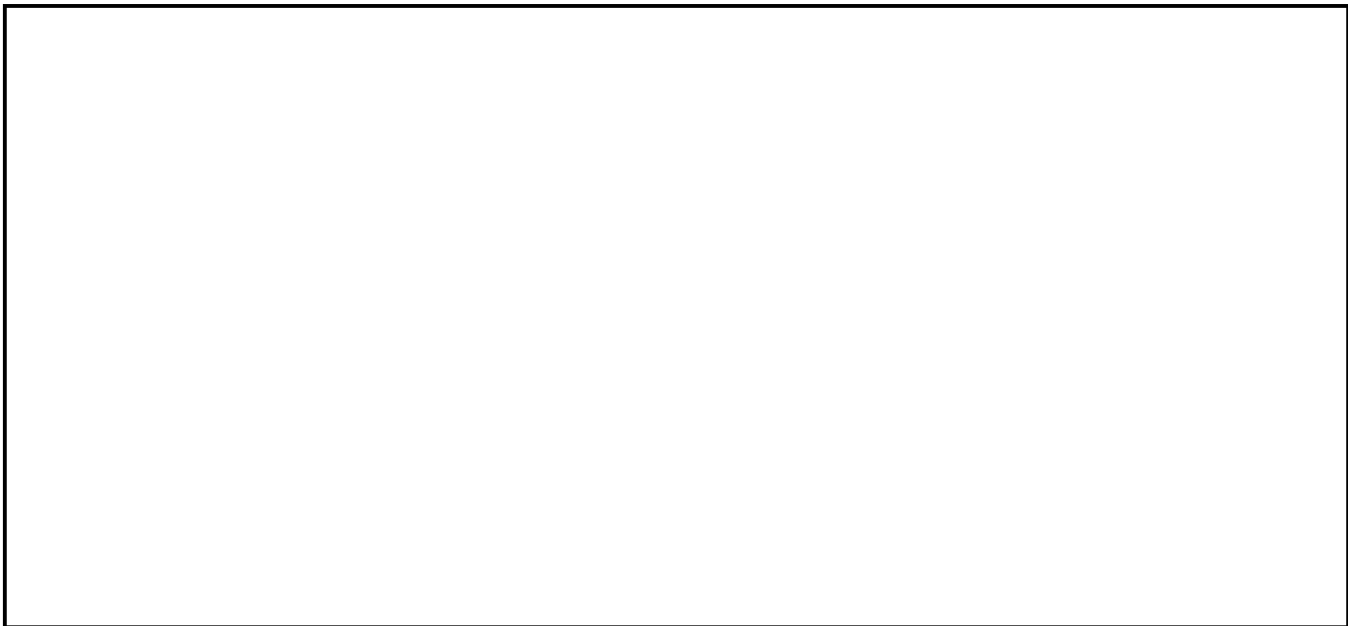
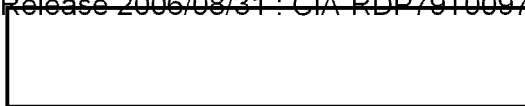
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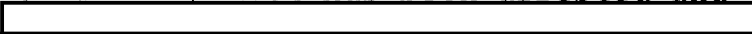
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PHILIPPINES: Government Crackdown

 Philippine President Marcos has begun a crackdown on his critics in the Catholic Church.


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 //On November 15, Marcos ordered the arrest of members of the clergy and laity suspected of subversive activity in collaboration with either the Communist Party or former politicians of the right. One US priest has been arrested and is awaiting deportation 

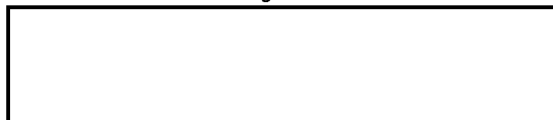
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 Radical clerics--often joined by the moderate lay persons--have been the most outspoken critics of Marcos' martial law regime. //The current arrests are part of a comprehensive plan to counter church criticism by deporting foreign priests who have been active in political agitation, placing activist leaders in preventive detention, and scaring off their financial patrons.//


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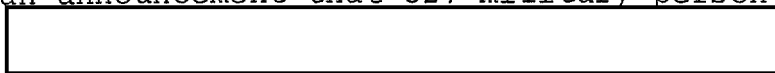


 The President's move against the so-called Christian left was foreshadowed by his revision last summer of the anti-subversion law. He broadened the application of the law beyond communist organizations to include any group allegedly engaged in subversive activities--a revision partially aimed at his Catholic critics.

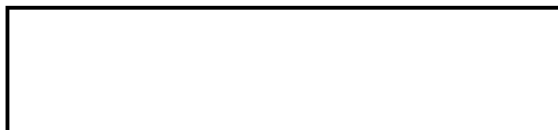
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 The current action also seems to be part of a general tightening up of the regime's control--an effort, launched by Marcos after the recent referendum, that has led to a broad investigation of the civil service and military for misconduct or disloyalty and to an announcement that 327 military personnel have been sacked.

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